



Federal Tool

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance

What is the CFDA?

The Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance is a government-wide compendium of Federal programs, projects, services, and activities that provide assistance or benefits to the American public.

Programs selected for inclusion in the Federal assistance data base are defined as any function of a Federal agency that provides assistance or benefits for a State or States, territorial possession, county, city, other political subdivision, grouping, or instrumentality thereof; any domestic profit or nonprofit corporation, institution, or individual, other than an agency of the Federal government.

Benefits and Purpose of the Catalog

- The primary purpose of the Catalog is to assist users in identifying programs that meet specific objectives of the potential applicant, and to obtain general information on Federal assistance programs
- The Catalog provides the user with access to programs administered by Federal departments and agencies in a single publication.
- Programs selected for inclusion in the Federal assistance data base are defined as any function of a Federal agency that provides assistance or benefits for a State or States, territorial possession, county, city, other political subdivision, grouping, or instrumentality thereof; any domestic profit or nonprofit corporation, institution, or individual, other than an agency of the Federal government.
- Program information is cross referenced by functional classification (Functional Index), subject (Subject Index), applicant (Applicant Index), deadline(s) for program application submission (Deadlines Index), and authorizing legislation (Authorization Index).
- Provides users with information on programs added and deleted since the last edition of the Catalog, a crosswalk of program numbers and title changes, regional and local offices, intergovernmental review requirements, definitions of the types of assistance under which programs are administered, proposal writing, grant application procedures, and additional sources of information on Federal programs and services.

The Internet and the CFDA website will be the primary disseminating method of the Catalog. The CFDA website will also contain a PDF file version of the Catalog that, when printed by any user, will have the same layout as the printed document that the Government Printing Office (GPO) has provided. For information about purchasing the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance from GPO, call the Superintendent of Documents at 202-512-1800 or toll free at 866-512-1800, or you may reach GPO's on-line bookstore at <http://bookstore.gpo.gov>.



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Types of Assistance

- **Formula Grants**—Allocations of money to States or their subdivisions in accordance with distribution formulas prescribed by law or administrative regulation, for activities of a continuing nature not confined to a specific project.
- **Project Grants**—Funding, for fixed or known periods, of specific projects. Project grants can include fellowships, scholarships, research, training grants, traineeships, experimental and demonstration grants, evaluation grants, planning grants, technical assistance grants, survey grants, and construction grants.
- **Direct Payments for Specified Use**—Financial assistance from the Federal government provided directly to individuals, private firms, and other private institutions to encourage or subsidize a particular activity by conditioning the receipt of the assistance on a particular performance by the recipient.
- **Direct Payments with Unrestricted Use**—Financial assistance from the Federal government provided directly to beneficiaries who satisfy Federal eligibility requirements with no restrictions being imposed on the recipient as to how the money is spent.
- **Direct Loans**—Financial assistance provided through the lending of Federal monies for a specific period of time, with a reasonable expectation of repayment.
- **Guaranteed/Insured Loans**—Programs in which the Federal government makes an arrangement to identify a lender against part or all of any defaults by those responsible for repayment of loans.
- **Insurance**—Financial assistance provided to assure reimbursement for losses sustained under specified conditions.
- **Sale, Exchange, or Donation of Property and Goods**—Programs which provide for the sale, exchange, or donation of Federal real property, personal property, commodities, and other goods including land, buildings, equipment, food and drugs.
- **Use of Property, Facilities, and Equipment**—Programs which provide for the loan of, use of, or access to Federal facilities or property wherein the federally owned facilities or property do not remain in the possession of the recipient of the assistance.
- **Provision of Specialized Services**—Programs which provide Federal personnel directly to perform certain tasks for the benefit of communities or individuals.
- **Advisory Services and Counseling**—Programs providing Federal specialists to consult, advise communities or individuals to include conferences, workshops, or personal contacts.
- **Dissemination of Technical Information**—Programs which provide for the publication and distribution of information or data of a specialized or technical nature frequently through clearinghouses or libraries.
- **Training**—Programs which provide instructional activities conducted directly by a Federal agency for individuals not employed by the Federal government.
- **Investigation of Complaints**—Federal administrative agency activities that are initiated in response to requests, either formal or informal, to examine or investigate claims of violations of Federal statutes, policies, or procedure.
- **Federal Employment**—Programs which reflect the Government-wide responsibilities of the Office of Personnel Management in the recruitment and hiring of Federal personnel.



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Programs in the Catalog provide information on the:

- Federal agency administering a program;
- Authorization upon which a program is based;
- Objectives and goals of a program;
- Types of financial and non-financial assistance offered under a program;
- Uses and restrictions placed upon a program;
- Eligibility requirements;
- Application and award process;
- Amount of obligations for the past, current, and future fiscal years;
- Regulations, guidelines and literature relevant to a program;
- Information contacts at the headquarters, regional, and local offices;
- Programs that are related based upon program objectives and uses;
- Examples of funded projects;
- Criteria for selecting proposals; and
- Agency policies and Federal management policy directives pertaining to a program.

20 Basic Functional Categories

Programs in the Catalog provide a wide range of benefits and services, which have been grouped into 20 basic functional categories. There are also 176 subcategories which identify specific areas of interest. Listed below are the 20 basic categories in which all programs have been grouped by primary purpose.

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| • Agriculture | • Food and Nutrition |
| • Business and Commerce | • Health |
| • Community Development | • Housing |
| • Consumer Protection | • Income Security and Social Services |
| • Cultural Affairs | • Information and Statistics |
| • Disaster Prevention and Relief | • Law, Justice, and Legal Services |
| • Education | • Natural Resources |
| • Employment, Labor, and Training | • Regional Development |
| • Energy | • Science and Technology |
| • Environmental Quality | • Transportation |



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Applying for Federal Assistance

It is estimated that in 2004 the Federal Government outlaid **\$400 billion** in grants to State and local governments.

Individuals or organizations can use the following guidelines to assist them in applying for Federal Assistance:

- Browse the Catalog using one of the indexes provided or a keyword search to locate assistance programs which are suitable to your needs as an applicant.
- Determine a means of approach for making an application by considering:
 - Program Objectives and Uses
 - Type of Assistance Needed
 - Eligibility Requirements
 - Application Procedure Required
- Check for an application deadline.
- Refer to the Information Contacts section located within each program description for addresses and telephone numbers to obtain further information from the funding agency.
- Contact the agency to determine:
 - Applicability of your proposal or project.
 - Availability of funds or assistance.
 - Answers to any questions you may have.
- Apply to the funding agency for assistance. For additional information on how to do this, refer to the Developing and Writing Grant Proposals page of the CFDA web site.



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www.cfda.gov

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GRANTS MANAGEMENT

Working cooperatively with the grantmaking agencies and the grantee community, OMB leads development of government-wide policy to assure that grants are managed properly and that Federal dollars are spent in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.

The Standard Form 424, Application for Federal Assistance, is the standard form for applying for grants or other Federal assistance. Please note that individual programs may require other forms or additional documentation.

These forms can be downloaded in PDF at:

www.whitehouse.gov/omb/grants/forms.html

- SF-424, Application for Federal Assistance
- SF-424A, Budget Information - Nonconstruction Programs
- SF-424B, Assurances - Nonconstruction Programs
- SF-424C, Budget Information - Construction Programs
- SF-424D, Assurances - Construction Programs
- SF-269, Financial Status Report (Long Form)
- SF-269A, Financial Status Report (Short Form)
- SF-270, Request for Advance or Reimbursement
- SF-271, Outlay Report and Request for Reimbursement for Construction Programs
- SF-272, Federal Cash Transactions Report
- SF-272A, Federal Cash Transactions Report
- SF-LLL, Disclosure of Lobbying Activities -- as codified in 1989
- SF-LLL, Disclosure of Lobbying Activities -- as revised in 1996
- SF-SAC, Data Collection Form for Reporting on A-133 Single Audits (For a paper copy, call (888) 222-9907.)

For further information and statistics on the Black Belt Region of Alabama, or to volunteer your assistance please visit www.blackbeltaction.org



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HELPFUL LINKS

You may find the following web sites helpful in your research into Federal Domestic Assistance Programs.

- Federal Assistance Awards Data System (FAADS)—<http://www.census.gov/govs/www/faads.html>
- Federal Depository Library Program (Lookup)—http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/locators/findlibs/index.html
- Federal Procurement Data System—<http://www.fpd.c.gov/>
- Federal Register—<http://www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/index.html>
- FirstGov.gov—<http://firstgov.gov/>
- Government Printing Office—<http://www.gpo.gov/>
- Grants.gov—<http://www.grants.gov/>
- Library of Congress—<http://thomas.loc.gov/>
- Office of Management and Budget (OMB)—<http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/>
- OMB Grants Management Page—<http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/grants/index.html>
- U.S. Business Advisor—<http://www.business.gov/>
- U.S. Code—<http://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/>
- U.S. General Services Administration (GSA)—<http://www.gsa.gov/>
- U.S. Government Nonprofit Gateway—<http://www.nonprofit.gov/>
- U.S. House of Representatives—<http://www.house.gov/>
- U.S. Senate—<http://www.senate.gov/>
- U.S. State & Local Gateway—<http://www.statelocal.gov/>

For further information and statistics on the Black Belt Region of Alabama, or to volunteer your assistance please visit www.blackbeltaction.org